

COVID-19 Update

April 7, 2020

Masks:

All SCDC inmates and officers will be receiving two masks this week as we continue our efforts to stay healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The masks are a combination of those made at Leath and Camille Correctional Institutions, those purchased from a local South Carolina company and those purchased through the Reform Alliance. We are expecting the masks to arrive mid-week, and they will be distributed as soon as they arrive.

Inmates continue to clean their rooms and living areas every two hours, and plenty of soap and sanitizer is available. Reports otherwise are misleading and harmful to the hard work our inmate population is doing to stay healthy.

Testing:

We continue to update our dashboard with the number of staff members and inmates who have tested positive.

Questions have arisen about how we are dealing with staff members who test positive for COVID-19. Our front entry staffs are wearing surgical masks, face shields and gloves. They are screening every employee who enters an institution with a questionnaire and by taking their temperature. If an employee shows any risk, they are not allowed entrance. If an employee shows symptoms and is tested, a contact investigation begins to determine who they were in close contact with. Close contacts are self-monitoring at home. Any inmates determined to have been in close contact with someone suspected to have COVID-19 also are quarantined from others and tested according to DHEC guidelines.